

Lewis Tappan - Apr. 13, 1845. Brooklyn, April 13/45.
Dear Bro. Phelps.

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~~Letter~~. Yesterday morning I received your letter of the 10th, but have not had time to read it till this day. There is nothing in it that I do not cordially approve. When you were here I was, as I am now, extremely busy, owing partly to the absence of my partner & chief clerk; and your health did not allow of my conferring with you ^{much} except in the busiest part of the day. I was in hopes that at the meeting of the committee, which you attended, that something definite would be done. The thinness of the meeting & the abrupt departure of Judge Fay, in connection with the perplexity of my own mind, prevented definite action. And after you left the city, when I took up the matter to the neglect of my own pressing business, and met with measureless success, the want of co-operation in one or two quarters where I had much expected it somewhat discouraged me. I ventured however in getting a special meeting. It was thinly attended, owing partly to one or more of the notices mis-carrying. Here I got the votes passed, electing you Cor. Sec. &c. With the money subscribed & the choice of my successors I ventured to send off a few of the printed circulars. Few responses have been made. \$2000 is subscribed and pledged, some conditionally - all contingent upon procuring \$3200 subscribed ^{in all}. Not all these consider themselves absolutely bound to pay the sums subscribed annually. I have been so crowded with business - having a severe cold at the same time - that I have not sent off as many circulars as I intended. This is the state of things up to the receipt of your letter.

It is my intention to have a special meeting of the Com. called tomorrow for Tuesday evening. Wednesday, therefore, will be the earliest day when I can write to you the result. I will lay before the Com. the "Terms of the Secretaryship" which you left with me & which I certainly overlooked at the late meeting. There will not probably be any opposition to these terms, nor to anything suggested in your letter of the 10th.

You do right in declining to come here unless there is a

reasonable prospect of permanency, and a satisfactory provision made for a
sustained salary to be regularly & promptly paid. These things ought always to be
done, & no one can blame a man for desiring them antecedent to his ac-
cepting an appointment as Secretary or editor.

You should not overlook the fact that although by the vote of the
Con. the amount of your salary & appointment are Society business, yet the
subⁿ previously made was the act of individuals, the act of the Com. being
founded upon it.

I have alluded ^{above} to my perplexity of mind, & alluded to it when you
were here. You know that I am already in advance to the Com. about \$700.
No one has offered to assume any part of this load. I have feared that if
I assume too large responsibilities for this com. & the Union Fair Soc. that I
might not be able to meet them. If my business should fall off, or if, by
reason of ill-health - and I have had two warnings already - I should be
obliged to give it up, I might not be able to perform, for successive years,
what I had promised. My perplexity arose from these considerations, & from an
unwillingness to be instrumental in placing you in a situation where, by anything
occurring to me, you might be disappointed or injured.

Since reading your last letter I have determined on prepar-
ing a new sub. paper, embracing your 2^d proposition, and getting a
few individuals upon whom I can rely to pledge \$700 a year to you, to
be paid quarterly, beginning 1st April 1845. This will be a private affair
between the subscribers & yourself. Then let the Com. vote you \$800 a year
from 15th April 1845,
payable quarterly, for which you can look to the Com. Those who do not subscribe
the first paper to the amount they are willing to give, can subscribe ^{second} a paper
obligating themselves to pay the amount subscribed on it to the Com. or
Soc. for the support of an editor, office & paper, and those who do not
subscribe the first paper at all can subscribe the second paper.

We want some stronger men in the Ex. Com. Judge Fay
seldom attends & he is fond of individual effort. He is not liberal
with his money as merchants sometimes are. Most of the com. are
persons of moderate property or poor. If you come you will have to stir
up the community to contribute for the purposes of the committee
I don't not they can be induced to contribute. We have made
little or no exertions in this way.

x I send you the copy you sent for the Anti S. Reporter.
The papers have not been kept so carefully as they should
have been. Is anything missing?

x I also send the *Wednesday* (25 copies) you
sent for. And ^x 3rd Vol
for London

Yours truly yours
Lewis Tappan

x Please call for them
at 8. City St. up stairs



Rev A A Phelps

Boston

P. Office

April 13, 1845.

L. J. Chapman